Johnson Aide Jack Valenti Attacks 'JFK'

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Valenti was quoted in yesterday's editions of the paper.

The movie received two Oscars for technical achievement.

Stone told the Times he respected Valenti's loyalty to Johnson but found "his emotional diatribe off the mark."

"The overwhelming majority of Americans ... agree with the central thesis of my film: that President Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy which included people in the government," Stone said.

A call seeking comment from Garrison was not immediately returned yesterday.

Valenti, who became a special assistant to Johnson immediately following the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination in Dallas, cites an intimate knowledge of White House affairs in refutting the film.

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Jack Valenti Attacks 'JFK' As 'Lunacy'

Associated Press

Los Angeles

Oliver Stone's film "JFK" distorts history and degrades Lyndon Johnson with vicious lies, said Jack Valenti, a former Johnson aide and Motion Picture Association of America president.

In a stinging, seven-page statement that Valenti said was unconnected to his role in the film industry, he tackled Stone's depiction of a Kennedy assassination conspiracy that included then-Vice President Johnson.

Valenti dismissed the alleged coverup painted by the Oscar-nominated best film as "quackery" plucked from a "slag heap of loony theories" in a book by former New Orleans prosecutor Jim Garrison.

Garrison, played by actor Kevin Costner in "JFK," became obsessed with trying to prove that President Kennedy was killed by conspirators, not by Lee Harvey Oswald acting alone.

"Does any sane human being truly believe that President Johnson, the Warren Commission members, law enforcement officers, CIA, FBI, White House aides, and assorted thugs, weirdos, Frisbee throwers, all conspired together as plotters in Garrison's wacky sightings?

"And then for almost 29 years nothing leaked? But you have to believe it if you think well of any part of this accusatory lunacy," Valenti said.

Garrison's book was dismissed by Valenti as "hallucinatory bleatings."

Valenti told the New York Times that he withheld his criticism of "JFK" until after the Academy Awards ceremony on Monday.

"I waited to speak out because I didn't want to do anything which might affect this picture's theatrical release or the Oscar balloting,"

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